

MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 8TH, 1890.

CHINESE MEDICINES ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

The American, and especially the Western American, is becoming more and more an object of an exciting study for English observers. Yet with all the opportunity of gazing him afforded us by note-taking officials and professors we are curiously being surprised by some fresh manifestation in his part. We had thought, for instance, that the Chinaman was regarded throughout the Pacific Slope as being, to put it mildly, of some wretched lower grade in creation than a Chicago hog; yet from an Arizona paper lately issued it would seem that he is rapidly making his way in those infernal parts as—what? As a doctor of medicine! "Chinese remedies" says one advertisement in this most entertaining sheet, "cure all diseases or ailments of the body or head, that man or woman is subject to." The United States, however, with that passion for protection which is so distinguishing and delightful a feature in their system, do not allow Chinese Physicians to practice in America, and consequently the Mongolian medical, as he has been elegantly styled, can only "procure a line [sic] of Chinese vegetable remedies for the cure of different diseases, and open parlours for their practice." He makes no charge for advice or consultation; in fact, no advertisement alluringly puts it, "a friendly talk with him costs nothing." The "him" in this case is GUN WA, in whose favour, says the head of his advertisement, Mr. JAMES RANKIN Cannot Say Too Much. Mr. RANKIN, whose portrait is given (and a remarkably ill-favoured individual he seems to have been, but that was probably before his cure), visited, he says, the noted Chinaman; and found him a pleasant, genial man, who impressed me favourably. He assured me he could cure me and named his terms (which were very moderate) and I commenced his treatment and you see the result. Do I advise sufferers to try him? Well I'll never get tired of telling people what he has done for me, and I shall urge every friend I have to get him up whenever they are sick. Another thing I want to say. I have always been opposed to the Chinese race, but from now on as long as I live, I'll never see a Chinaman imposed on or stand quietly by and hear them run down." Has an American medical missionary in China ever aroused enthusiasm equal to this?

Gun Wa is a specialist on leprosy and rheumatism, concerning both of which he has composed a treatise to be had for the extravagant sum of 4 cents a copy. There is also a larger history of his life which the curious may send for, and which should certainly prove as diverting in its way as the adventures of Baron Munchausen. One of his rivals in Denver City, LEE WING, furnishes us with some particulars of his own career. He is, he tells us, "a graduate of the oldest and most noted schools of China, and his ancestors have practised medicine and been presidents, professors, and teachers of colleges of the highest standing in the city of Canton for near 1,000 years. Similarly LING SAWO (who is depicted sitting in his drug-store, a far higher flight of art than the portrait of Mr. JAMES RANKIN) "graduated in China under an in his father's medical college, and practised for twenty-two years." Both he and LEE WING "guarantees to cure all diseases that flesh is heir to with nature's remedies, pure, vegetable," and both like Gun Wa, write testimonials to their success. LEE WING at the same time begs his prospective patients "not to confound him with other so-called Chinese physicians," from which it would appear that, though he may be a quack now, he is not a quack then. They could grant out their diplomas, and their students to their success. LEE WING, on the subject of mortality statistics, Mr. McCALLUM says that such are not more correct for opium smoking or other more questionable practices, they betray an amount of credulity and ignorance of things Chinese which should not be found in any of these establishments, especially those that are quick nowdays, Argan or Mongol, could venture to publish claims to be a graduate of a Chinese medical school. There are no Chinese medical schools; there never have been. Nor if there were Chinese medical science being what it is, would any diploma they could grant entitle their graduates to confidence. No one disputes it is true, that the Chinese have among them innumerable drugs some that are, or may be, beneficial, though many, even that Chinese medicine, with their art occasionally effected cures, it is impossible that any race could exist for four thousand years without obtaining some knowledge of simples, and this knowledge the Chinese possess, though only to the extent of a Shakespearean horowian. They have no idea of the action of a drug they may successfully administer, in one case, and in consequence exhibit it in others; or act erroneously as correctly. Their natural notion of an effective mixture is a basketful of horrors, ingredients too disgusting to bear enumeration. Any one can set up as a doctor who chooses, and the only check on any branch of the profession is to keep it in a Druggist's Guild, whose sole object is to keep down competition. Mr. GREGORY, who cannot be suspected of any prejudice against the Chinese, gave some years back (in his "Chinese Sketches") an abstract of a Chinese medical work which among other absurdities professed to cure any tendency towards the growth, "not a natural disease, but under prolongation of the sum of the body." The treatise also provided remedies, palpably ludicrous, for sea-sickness and incendiaries, and the whole performance was in gross keeping with the current ideas of the Chinese medical school. How, in the name of all that is marvellous, have Gun Wa and his kind succeeded in inducing nineteenth century Americans to visit their stores, hold "secretly confidential" talks with them, and purchase, may, actually and in good faith swallow, their drugs? These must be more behind than our Cunctious graduates care to admit, or else do so for a possibly an increased import of Irishmen, who have considerably lowered the average brain power of Arizona.

THE SANITARY BOARD AND ITS WORK.

At the last meeting of the Sanitary Board a very able report by the Sanitary Superintendent on the department's work for 1889 was laid on the table. It had already been circulated amongst the members, and Mr. FRANCIS, Q.C., had made a minute upon it to the effect that although the report was a very valuable one it was not such a report of the year's work of the Board and its officers as—with all respect to the excellent Secretary—they thought they ought to have.

Mr. FRANCIS's idea possibly was that the report should have contained more facts, either with or without the expression of opinion of which it is clearly made up. Taking the report, however, as an intelligent discussion of the work done, rather than

a mere record, it must be admitted that it possesses great merit. If all the executive officers of the Government who have to make annual reports would give a similar explanation of their views on the various subjects with which they have to deal some of the misunderstandings which occasionally arise would probably be avoided. It is well, for instance, that the public should know exactly what Mr. McCALLUM thinks about the so-called opposition to the drainage by-laws. Whether his opinion may be generally rendered or not is of course another question. That opinion is, that active opposition has taken the character of a somewhat lower grade in creation than a Chicago hog; yet from an Arizona paper lately issued it would seem that he is rapidly making his way in those infernal parts as—what? As a doctor of medicine! "Chinese remedies" says one advertisement in this most entertaining sheet, "cure all diseases or ailments of the body or head, that man or woman is subject to."

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LEE WING at the same time begs his prospective patients "not to confound him with other so-called Chinese physicians," from which it would appear that, though he may be a quack now, he is not a quack then.

They could grant out their diplomas, and their students to their success. LEE WING, on the subject of mortality statistics, Mr. McCALLUM says that such are not more correct for opium smoking or other more questionable practices, they betray an amount of credulity and ignorance of things Chinese which should not be found in any of these establishments, especially those that are quick nowdays, Argan or Mongol, could venture to publish claims to be a graduate of a Chinese medical school.

There are no Chinese medical schools; there never have been.

Nor if there were Chinese medical science being what it is, would any diploma they could grant entitle their graduates to confidence.

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They have no idea of the action of a drug they may successfully administer, in one case, and in consequence exhibit it in others; or act erroneously as correctly. Their natural notion of an effective mixture is a basketful of horrors, ingredients too disgusting to bear enumeration. Any one can set up as a doctor who chooses, and the only check on any branch of the profession is to keep it in a Druggist's Guild, whose sole object is to keep down competition. Mr. GREGORY, who cannot be suspected of any prejudice against the Chinese, gave some years back (in his "Chinese Sketches") an abstract of a Chinese medical work which among other absurdities professed to cure any tendency towards the growth, "not a natural disease, but under prolongation of the sum of the body."

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As far as possible at the Board's officers have been and are. "Instead of blame" he says, "the men deserve praise for the patient and unwearied manner in which they have endeavoured and endeavoured to carry on their duties." That the Sanitary Superintendent should be able to write in this strain of his staff must be extremely gratifying to the public as well as to the officers themselves. The Hon. N. G. Murchison-Innes, however, introduced some what unpleasant subject of presents, used to "soften the hearts" of the Inspectors. The hon. gentleman trusts the officers do not give way to the temptation, but, he said, they are in communion with every Government official who is subject to it, and he intimated that an attempt had been made to soften his own heart. On this the Hon. S. Brown said—

"With regard to the suggestion of bribery, he did not think anything of that sort could go on very long without its becoming known to some section of the community, and it was desirable if there should be any suspicion of that sort that the master should be reported and a most searching investigation made." It is not many years since such an investigation was made, but nothing was discovered tending to confirm the accusations which had been made, rather than that presents had been known to be offered. If these presents are accepted neither the briber nor the person bribed is ever likely to tell and no one else can possibly know anything about it. A suspicion exists that in some cases they are accepted—a suspicion which is in many cases—probably—cruelly unjust to very deserving officers. But, it is undesirable that even the suspicion should exist. The first step towards establishing perfect confidence should be recommended by Mr. FRANCIS, namely, the appointment of a Sanitary Surveyor who should have nothing else to do except to attend to the work of the Board. As the learned Queen's Counsel says, the only real preventive to anything in the nature of bribery is not prosecution, but adequate and effective supervision by a reliable, responsible, well paid officer occupying an honourable position. While the Sanitary Surveyor has a mass of other work to attend to, it is impossible that he can give the close supervision that is desirable to the work of the Board's subordinate officers.

PIRACY IN THE KWANTUNG PROVINCE.

Not long before his departure from Canada the late Viceroy, CHANG CHUN-CHUN, addressed a memorial to the Throne with reference to the prevalence of piracy in the waters of the province. In a recent issue of the *Peking Gazette* there is a report from the present Viceroy, LI HAN-CHANG, on the same subject. In the abstract given by the *China Times* the state of affairs is thus described:—The three districts of Nan-hai, Pau-ku, and Hui-chou, which comprise the prefecture of Canton, has been established as a pirates' lair.

Architects and contractors naturally view any regulations which may be introduced to restrain them.

The Sanitary Superintendent, however, apparently intends to include

architects and contractors. The Jerry builder and his ways are well known, and

had Mr. McCALLUM's remarks been confined to individuals of that class they would not have been too strong, but as applied to architects and the generality of owners they are, we are persuaded, unjustifiable. Architects as a class may indeed almost be ranked next to doctors as sanitarians. Whatever friction may have arisen in this Colony between the profession and the Sanitary Department it would be fair to attribute to honest misunderstanding than to the world motives attributed by Mr. McCALLUM.

The next section of the report deals with markets and slaughter houses and the cognate subjects of street hawking. The latter, Mr. McCALLUM says, is to some considerable extent a convenience to the poorer classes of ratepayers, and he deems it expedient to tolerate its continuance, care being taken to prevent the establishment of permanent stalls by the law-makers.

As to the slaughter houses, they are, according to the Sanitary Superintendent, so inadequate

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salves, vegetables, fruits, meat, &c. were permitted to take place in shops outside the market.

The Acting Resident-General said he had written this minute because several of the points mentioned were ones he had been compelled to make to the Chinese, or had had to deal with. With regard to the first point he had no doubt that the officers in charge of the sanitary works in most cases did their best to explain to the Chinese what was wanted of them, and complaints were that some of the overseers gave a bad account of plantation which was not perfectly understood. With regard to the temptations which these overseers were subjected to, he trusted they did not give way to it, but, in common with every Government official, were subject to it himself. He had been interviewed with regard to a case, in which some of his friends had had cases of chancre, and, in the course, which they had sent back, while in another case, they had been offered money. In one such case his friend had resorted to *argumentum ad baculum*, which had doubled the effect of putting a stop to a repetition of anything of the kind.

His objection to anything of the way of putting power in the hands of Government officials of the lower grades was that they were perpetually subjected to temptation of the kind mentioned, and thought there was no safety in his power to say that these presents were accepted he thought it desirable that this temptation should be withdrawn. With regard to his suggestion as to a portion of the Police Force being told off to look after the hawkers, the Acting Captain of the mounted Police might refer to the *Police Regulation*—but he thought the suggestion was worthy of consideration. With regard to the food supply he strongly deprecated what had become a common practice, in spite of the ordinance against it, the selling of vegetables, fruits, and meat in shops outside the market. It was impossible while such a practice continued that the Legislative Council and get the necessary and sufficient

Mr. WONG-SHING asked if the market accommodation was sufficient for requirements.

Mr. FRANCIS said that was the whole question. The increase of these outside shops was simply the result of insufficient market accommodation.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL said there was no market at the present time.

Mr. FRANCIS said it appeared to him that the market space was no more with the present population than it was when the population was only half as large.

The Vice-President said with regard to the suggestion of telling off men for the special duty of looking after hawkers at present, that was impossible, as the force was not large enough to get through the ordinary work. It was necessary for men necessary for the work, the best plan would be to engage a certain number of men for the purpose and put them under the Registrar-General.

The President said with regard to the suggestion that house drains should be constructed by the Government and maintained by them for a period at a fixed sum, to carry this out would involve the responsibility for appointing such a large staff that he thought there was very little chance of the Government authorising such a scheme. The Vice-President said it was the object of government to secure the protection of property belonging to private owners, there was a very little inducement for care to be exercised over the maintenance of drains in a proper state. With regard to the remarks about the overseers, he thought in any case where an overseer or any other official appeared to be giving instructions, directions, complaints should be made to the Sanitary Surveyor. And if not attended to, to the Registrar-General. With regard to the suggestion of hawks holding up anything of that sort could go on very long without being known to some section of the community, and it was desirable if there should be any suspicion of that sort that the matter should be reported and a most searching investigation made.

Mr. O. CHADWICK said with reference to the question of construction of these drains by Government, he thought it desirable, on behalf of everybody that any extra staff that was necessary to carry out the work should be provided so that they might be constructed by Government. If the work were done concurrently with the new drainage scheme no very serious increase in the staff would be required. He thought it would be absolutely necessary to have an easy connection with the house drains and such a drain should be the person who were laying the new drains, he thought there would be no other way to get the work done.

Most of the work required to be done would have to be done by people who very often did not appreciate the necessity of good workmanship. Architects and others, he was sorry to say, sometimes did not consider it necessary to exercise any particular care, and contractors and owners of houses were not sufficiently careful over the laying of house drains. He thought, therefore, even supposing it involved extra cost, it was to be expected that expenses would be well incurred in providing the necessary staff. As to the question of maintaining these drains, he was inclined to agree with the President that for the Government to undertake the maintenance of them would encourage carelessness on the part of the overseers. In the case of stoppages of drains he thought the Government should be made to pay the expense of any extra staff required. That had been done in other places. He thought it better to have the appointment of the Water Authority in the hands of the Government.

Mr. FRANCIS thought with Mr. Chadwick that any new system of drainage was going to be introduced, the work should be done by the Government, and he was agreed with him that the Government should not bind themselves to maintain these drains for a number of years. If the Government laid the drains in a good system he did not think they should afterwards interfere with or undertake the maintenance of them for any period whatever.

With reference to this question he would again ask permission to call their attention to the fact that it was often called before, viz: the utter inability of the Government of attempting to carry out new works while the Sanitary Surveyor was engaged in other business besides that of the Board. The Sanitary Surveyor spent the greater portion of his time in other work. Many of their inspectors were double ones to hawks and a great deal of the work might be thoroughly scamped while supposed to be under the Sanitary Surveyor. He did not expect to get highly paid men to fill such positions, and the only real protection against the work of the sort was not protection—it would be the only that such cases would be found out—but supervision, adequate and effective supervision by a reliable, responsible, well-paid officer, occupying a honourable position. It was impossible for their Sanitary Surveyor to superintend the new work. He was employed in the Sanitary Surveyor's department, and a very considerable portion of the work of that department was done by him, he was assisting Mr. Chadwick, and he was supposed to be Sanitary Surveyor. No man, however capable, and he was quite willing to admit Mr. Cooper's ability, could possibly properly supervise and superintend the work when so much of his time was occupied in other business.

He asked the sort of attention to the question of maintaining these drains, he was in agreement with the President that the Government should not bind themselves to maintain these drains for a number of years. If the Government laid the drains in a good system he did not think they should afterwards interfere with or undertake the maintenance of them for any period whatever.

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THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1880.

The following report by the Sanitary Superintendent on the sanitary work for the year 1880 was laid on the table at the last meeting of the Sanitary Board.

Sanitary Board Room, Hongkong, 1st March, 1880.

General.—In submitting the first annual report concerning the work done by the Sanitary Department I feel that, with a view to making the present position clear, the work done by the Board was first constituted, and then the work done by the Sanitary Board.

With regard to the question of hawkers and markets he had a personal objection to the interference with the freedom of trade where there was no real ground for complaint, and he had made to put down gambling. With regard to the question of the markets he thought that there was every opportunity for market accommodation.

It might be said, as by the Registrar-General, that there were as many as fifty stalls unoccupied, but these were probably in situations which were not wanted.

With regard to the difficulty the Sanitary Board had in getting through its business the reason was, there were so many queasies for the Board to take up and consider, so many things that were not right.

The Registrar-General agreed with Mr. Chadwick as to the advantage of having the drains properly laid by Government.

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Mr. FRANCIS proposed that the Superintendent should be allowed to make his own report, and the proposition was carried.

A NUTRANCE IN BELLES-TERRACE.

A report by the Inspector of Nutrances of an inspection made of the houses in Belles-Terrace was laid on the table. The inspection was made in consequence of complaints by two of the householders. The report stated that there was no evidence on the part of the property owner regarding the first principles of what constituted a properly-drawn dwelling.

The first care of property owners is to obtain as large a return as possible for the money which they have invested in their property. The first care of an architect is to complete their clients' houses as expeditiously as possible and with a minimum of trouble to themselves. The first care of contractors is to finish their undertaking as soon as possible. These are all powerful factors which are being taken in the construction of houses.

Mr. FRANCIS said he had asked to have this matter mentioned at the meeting of the Board to learn what grounds notice had been given to the whole of the residents in the terrace and to the houses inspected.

The SECRETARY said two complaints had been received from the houses in the terrace, and it would be desirable that the whole terrace should be inspected. He recommended this and the President approved.

Mr. FRANCIS said that however desirable such a proceeding might be he was afraid that neither the Superintendent nor the President nor even the Board had the power to make such an inspection.

The Ordinance only gave them power to inspect premises.

Mr. FRANCIS said that he had a reasonable belief that the suggestion of the Acting Captain of the mounted Police might refer to the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, and that the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce did not have the power to inspect premises.

Mr. WONG-SHING asked if the market accommodation was sufficient for requirements.

Mr. FRANCIS said that was the whole question. The increase of these outside shops was simply the result of insufficient market accommodation.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL said there was no market at the present time.

Mr. FRANCIS said it appeared to him that the market space was no more with the present population than it was when the population was only half as large.

The Vice-President said with regard to the suggestion of telling off men for the special duty of looking after hawkers at present, that was impossible, as the force was not large enough to get through the ordinary work. It was necessary for men necessary for the work, the best plan would be to engage a certain number of men for the purpose and put them under the Registrar-General.

The President said with regard to the suggestion that house drains should be constructed by the Government and maintained by them for a period at a fixed sum, to carry this out would involve the responsibility for appointing such a large staff that he thought there was very little chance of the Government authorising such a scheme.

The Vice-President said it was the object of government to secure the protection of property belonging to private owners, there was a very little inducement for care to be exercised over the maintenance of drains in a proper state.

With regard to the remarks about the overseers, he thought in any case where an overseer or any other official appeared to be giving instructions, directions, complaints should be made to the Sanitary Surveyor. And if not attended to, to the Registrar-General. With regard to the suggestion of hawks holding up anything of that sort could go on very long without being known to some section of the community, and it was desirable if there should be any suspicion of that sort that the matter should be reported and a most searching investigation made.

Mr. O. CHADWICK said with reference to the question of construction of these drains by Government, he thought it desirable, on behalf of everybody that any extra staff that was necessary to carry out the work should be provided so that they might be constructed by Government.

If the work were done concurrently with the new drainage scheme no very serious increase in the staff would be required.

Most of the work required to be done would have to be done by people who very often did not appreciate the necessity of good workmanship.

Architects and others, he was sorry to say, sometimes did not consider it necessary to exercise any particular care, and contractors and owners of houses were not sufficiently careful over the laying of house drains.

He thought, therefore, even supposing it involved extra cost, it was to be expected that expenses would be well incurred in providing the necessary staff.

As to the question of maintaining these drains, he was inclined to agree with the President that for the Government to undertake the maintenance of them would encourage carelessness on the part of the overseers.

In the case of stoppages of drains he thought the Government should be made to pay the expense of any extra staff required.

That had been done in other places. He thought it better to have the appointment of the Water Authority in the hands of the Government.

With regard to the suggestion that house drains should be constructed by the Government and maintained by them for a period at a fixed sum, to carry this out would involve the responsibility for appointing such a large staff that he thought there was very little chance of the Government authorising such a scheme.

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HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 8th, 1890.

四月八日

號八月五英港香

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Hongkong, 7th May, 1890. 1107

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YOKOHAMA, 10th April, 1890. 1046

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held at the Hongkong Dispensary, or MON-
DAY, the 21st instant, at THREE O'CLOCK IN
the AFTERNOON, for the purpose of receiving

the Report of the General Manager, together

with a Statement of Accounts to the 31st Dec-
ember, 1889.

The REGISTER of SHARES will be closed

on WEDNESDAY, the 14th instant, both days

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T. T. TALBOT,

Secretary.

Hongkong, 2nd May, 1890. 1068

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